

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed August 29, 2006 has been carefully reviewed along with the references cited therein. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 9, 10, 12-14, 16 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gotanda (U.S. Patent No. 4,679,834). Claims 1-8, 17, 19 and 20 were allowed. Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter.

In this response, Applicant has amended claims 9 and 21, cancelled claim 22 and added claim 23.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 9 has been amended to recite "a latch bolt pin actuator mounted for linear movement in said housing towards and away from the latch opening in a direction generally perpendicular to the strike plate." Support for this limitation can be found at least at the following sections of Applicant's specification and the figures described in those sections: page 6, line 13 - page 7, line 10; page 9, line 16 - page 10, line 10; and page 12, line 22 - page 13, line 20. The operating plate 63 in Gotanda, which the Examiner equates to Applicant's latch bolt pin actuator, is not mounted for linear movement towards and away from the latch opening in a direction generally perpendicular to the strike plate. The operating plate in Gotanda is mounted for movement, but this movement is not towards and away from the latch opening. Moreover, the operating plate in Gotanda moves in a direction that is parallel to the strike plate. Accordingly, claim 9 has been amended to define over Gotanda. Therefore, claim 9, and those claims that depend from claim 9, patentably define over the cited reference.

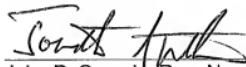
Claim 21 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 22, which was found to be allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, claim 21, and new claim 23, are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted all claims remaining in the application are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early indication of the same is earnestly solicited. In any event, should the Examiner consider personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

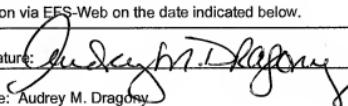
Respectfully submitted,

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